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SIXTEENTH BIENNIAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

OF THE

HISTORICAL

AND

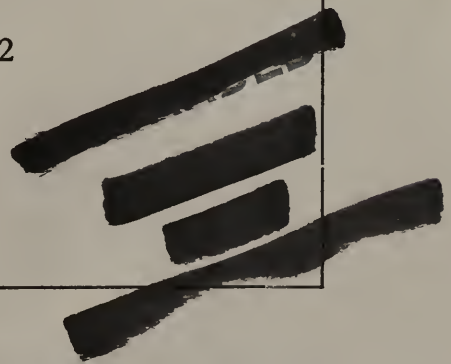
MISCELLANEOUS

DEPARTMENT

OF THE

MONTANA STATE LIBRARY

1921—1922



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STATE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

SIXTEENTH BIENNIAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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OF THE

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MONTANA STATE LIBRARY

1921—1922

STATE OF MONTANA
SIXTEENTH BIENNIAL REPORT
HISTORICAL LIBRARY

Helena, Dec. 4, 1922.

To Honorable Joseph M. Dixon,
Governor of Montana.
Dear Sir:

We have the honor to present our report of the condition of the Historical and Miscellaneous department of the State Library and to submit herewith the report of the Librarian thereof made to our Board on the 2nd instant.

In the 1923 Report and Legislative Budget which we submit we recommend the following:

Change of the name of this department of the State Library back to its original name of Historical Society of Montana.

Increase in the salaries of the Librarian and the Assistant. The salaries heretofore provided are entirely inadequate for the services rendered.

Sufficient amount for printing and binding publications as it is five years since the Society has published a volume.

Attention to the matter of marking historic sites in the State and particularly in the matter of perpetuating the original names of mountains, rivers, creeks, valleys and other landmarks.

We particularly commend to your consideration and of the forthcoming session of the Legislative Assembly the interest and welfare of this valuable Society with its opportunities for perpetuating the story of the State which should be of interest to everyone in this region and to plead for substantial support in its efforts in this direction.

We are very respectfully,

Your Obedient Servants,

J. H. T. RYMAN, President
MRS. JOSEPHINE HEPNER,
DAVID HILGER,
JAMES T. STANFORD.

Trustees of the Historical and Miscellaneous Department of the
State Library.

DISCARDED
JUN 24 1969
LIBRARY
UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA

REPORT OF LIBRARIAN STATE OF MONTANA HISTORICAL LIBRARY

Helena, Montana, November 28, 1922.

To the Honorable J. H. T. Ryman, President, and the Board of Trustees of the Historical and Miscellaneous Library of the State of Montana.

Gentlemen:

I herewith present the sixteenth biennial report of the Librarian of the Historical and Miscellaneous Library for the years 1921-'22.

The Library is pleasantly located in the East wing of the Capitol building, and if it were not for some additional space in the basement where many valuable volumes are shelved and only accessible to students inclined to delve into history, the institution would be seriously crowded for quarters.

Your Librarian took office June 1, 1922 and was fortunate in securing the services of Miss Elizabeth McDonald as Assistant Librarian on September 1, 1922. Miss McDonald has been an Assistant Librarian in the Butte Public Library for a number of years and in the meantime had taken a course in Library Economy at Columbia University in New York City and also had had periods of training in the Public Library of that city and also in private libraries and I believe the observations of the Board will verify her efficiency in the large field of labor ahead of us in this department of the State Library.

The present name of Historical and Miscellaneous Library is not a happy one and I earnestly desire to urge the resumption of the old name to this department of the State Library. The miscellaneous feature of its collection will be better understood and as fully described by the resumption of the name given to it by the First (Bannack) Legislative Assembly of the Territory of Montana on February 2, 1865. Every State in the Union has an Historical Society on which is, by custom or statute, devolved the duty of gathering not only books historical of the region but of collecting relics and mementoes of the Pioneers of their mountains and valleys and those who preceded and followed the Pioneers. Its relations to the Law Library are so remote, it would seem that it might be given a separate and distinct title as suggested and it seems that this deference is due to the memory of the scholars who fifty-eight years ago had the foresight to ask our first Legislature for a charter to perpetuate the story then being enacted and now forming one of the most interesting chapters in the western march of civilization.

It is believed that the Legislature will gladly approve of this suggestion. The State Law Library is limited to books by the scope of its field of research. The Historical field which this department is expected to harvest is not limited to books by the scope of its field of research and the very law which denominates it (Sec. 1548 of the Political Code) as "the Historical and Miscellaneous library" prescribes that the Librarian of this department (Sec. 1560 Political Code) "shall preserve specimens of the metals and minerals, of the flora and fauna of the state, together with natural curiosities and antiquities, preserving, designating and displaying the same."

Surely a field of research was assigned to this institution at its birth which has been carried through the Territorial and State laws for nearly sixty years which removes it from the position of a department of a library, as now denominated, and makes it the Historical Society of Montana.

Progress in the cataloguing of the volumes of the Library is proceeding slowly it may seem to the casual observer but with satisfactory advancement. Cataloguing a Library is a science to which institutions of Learning assign trained educators and it is the desire of your Librarian and of Miss McDonald when the work is completed that it shall be a model and that it shall be in accord with the system adopted by all the great Libraries of the land. The expensive stacks for books and newspapers were about filled when we entered on our duties but it seemed to us that there was a defect in the design of the stacks particularly those prepared for the newspapers in placing them flat on rollers and the rearrangement which we tried of arranging them like books is a success and promises to economize space effectively.

During the war this department was compelled to subscribe for nearly all of the State papers which it endeavored to preserve for its future files. On presentation of the subject to the publishers of the daily and weekly press of the state, this department has been placed on their complimentary lists as it is usually called although we feel that in so doing they are only performing a duty to the state which enures to their own credit and benefit and that the Library reciprocates amply in binding and preserving and making accessible their publications for future generations. This is one of the most interesting and valuable sections of the Library. These papers are the diaries of their various communities and of the regions adjacent and every paper published in the state should be preserved and will be if the publishers will co-operate and they will be bound as promptly as circumstances will permit. Many of our sister and neighboring states pay considerable attention to the preservation of their newspapers. Minnesota and Kansas have wonderful collections and nearly complete files and as a result the future Historian in these states will not need to go far afield for data.

This institution has not grown as it should during a very vital period of its existence. Born during the Gold rush to Montana few felt inclined to perpetuate the daily routine of the settlements, gulches, valleys, stampedes, wars, raids, which now must be gathered from the few survivors. Much good work has been done by those interested but a great deal of the fruits of their labors became the fuel and victim of fires and floods and their work has gone on to date resulting in a collection creditable to any state but which will call for the exercise of renewed zeal to save much of interest.

Much of the story of Montana in its earliest history has gone to other states ever with a watchful eye for a chapter rivalling fiction and the collection of such material has become popular with individuals able to gratify their craving. All of the people of Montana in possession of journals of our formative period and of accounts of historical incidents transpiring within our borders should remember and send them to the Historical and Miscellaneous Library.

Acting Governor Tufts addressing the Territorial Legislature on December 7, 1868, in speaking of the Historical Society of Montana said:

"The importance of this institution to the Territory is incalculable. Properly conducted it may be made an epitome of the territory itself and henceforward at all times illustrate its progress and development more thoroughly than could be done by any of the ordinary researches of visitors, strangers and savants."

Governor Potts during his long tenure of office was a friend of the Historical Society of Montana and secured meager appropriations for its support.

The Librarian of the Historical Society twenty-six years ago in stating the scope and province of this institution and duties devolving on us and the opportunities which are ours, said:

"The old affairs of the frontier are fast disappearing and the new come to take their place; the frontier itself has passed into the Pacific sea; the countless vast herds of bison have gone, and the deer and elk, the big-horn and the prong-horn yearly shrink in numbers; the free roving life of the Indian is being exchanged within the reservations for that of 'hewers of wood and drawers of water' and the barbaric splendor that once made his race so picturesque is even now seldom seen and will soon be known but in the more fortunate museums; the trappers and traders with the tales of their romantic lives and their reminiscences of stirring times along the 'untrodden ways'; the accounts and experiences of those who 'blazed the trails' into this, then, terra incognita and founded the government upon which our present statehood is builded; these are all passing beyond our view. This state was the last stronghold of a warrior race, within our borders were played the closing scene in the drama enacted by the contending forces of barbarism and civilization upon this continent, and through the future chronicles will Montana be known as the land of western romance; she whose soil is consecrated by the blood of a knightly Custer's band; where Logan, Bradley, English and their comrades died, where Hale and Biddle fell; where Miles and Gibbon and Crook and Howard and Sully campaigned; over whose mountains and through whose valleys and defiles passed the warrior Joseph on that march the like of which few ages can boast; upon whose rolling prairies battled and skurried the fierce hosts of Gall and Crazy Horse and Red Cloud, of Lame Deer and Two Moons and countless other chieftains, and of that unscrupulous schemer, Sitting Bull the medicine man; and upon whose kindly bosom sleeps many a nameless hero of our early time. What a vast mass of wonderfully interesting and valuable material might be gathered. Already much from our past that we should possess is irretrievably lost to us; but much still remains which in a few years will be beyond our recall, and we here make our earnest appeal to all Montanians, individually and collectively, to aid us in the laudable enterprise of saving to the State such proper material as may now be obtained. Montana has given much that was valuable to outside institutions, heretofore, and too little has been saved for the use of her own people. Let us do in this direction what we can for our own state, by adding our contributions to her history through the Historical Society or by placing some object of interest in its custody to be preserved for the benefit of present and future Montanians. This, the Historical Society of the State of Montana, is a state institution, it belongs absolutely to the people of the State of Montana, and they should, one and all, take a personal pride and interest in its development and in advancing its aims. Because of its character and because it is a state institution, the Society naturally becomes the proper custodian of all matters and objects of interest and historic value relating to Montana."

Much remains to be done and we hope to receive the hearty co-operation of all the people of the state and trust that they will become better acquainted with their Historical Library and render it all assistance in their power.

There are many historic places in Montana some of which should be acquired and preserved and some of which the sites should be marked with Bronze Tablets. While a start has been made in this direction, Montana is very backward in the work. Much interest is expressed in the subject but the movement seems to be waiting for some one to take the lead and it seems as though there is no more appropriate organization than the Historical Society of Montana with the approval of the Legislative Assembly. This Society has already co-operated in a small way with the Society of Montana Pioneers and others in properly marking the spot where gold was discovered in Last Chance Gulch, with a bronze tablet.

The Society of Montana Pioneers and some of its friends have suitably marked the Mullan Road by monuments along its line from Fort Benton to the western border of the State towards Walla Walla.

The most wonderful exploration expedition of all time revealed only a hundred and seventeen years ago the hidden wealth of this Empire State of the West when Lewis and Clark reported to President Jefferson the details of their exploration of Louisiana and their trip to the mouth of the Columbia river, and submitted their journals of each days incidents. The most interesting relic of this expedition left to Montana was Captain Clark's autograph and date, "Wm. Clark, July 25, 1806," crudely carved on the northeast wall of Pompey's Pillar below Billings and it was left to the interest of Col. J. B. Clough, engineer of the Yellowstone Division of the Northern Pacific Railroad under instructions of President Villard forty years ago to cover this invaluable relic with an iron grating to protect it from vandals and that great transcontinental line is entitled to the thanks of every citizen of Montana for its foresight in this matter. On their outward journey through Montana in 1805, following up the Missouri and Jefferson rivers which they named and the Beaverhead and down the Bitter Root, they traversed or followed the border of seventeen counties and passed the sites of nine county seats of today. Returning the next year, separating, possibly Lewis visited five other counties and Clark going down the Yellowstone traversed ten of our counties and visited the sites of the county seats of nine of them. I have followed the course of this trail for the purpose of suggesting that it should be marked at prominent points by Bronze Tablets or otherwise and as a protection such Tablet or monument should be erected at some city or settlement and the Society enabled within reasonable limits to co-operate with counties or societies for that purpose. Such Tablets would cost in place about Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) and means to subscribe half that amount would give direction to a realization of a very worthy object. Until the trail of Verendrye into Montana in 1742-3 is more definitely and reliably determined, its marking must be deferred. St. Mary's Mission at Stevensville should be preserved and possibly might be secured and cared for. What remains of old Fort Benton built seventy-six years ago should be preserved. Many other historic places should be preserved which it is impossible to enumerate here.

This plan, new or unknown to us, has been followed for many years by other countries and states and it is gratifying to all people to take an interest in the early incidents of their communities and these are first sought out by strangers and tourists and are an introduction to the history of all regions.

I believe that it is the province of this Library to urge the restoration of many of the names of mountains, rivers, creeks, valleys and other landmarks given to them in the Exploration and Pioneer periods of our history and changed by newcomers to our state. All can recall instances of this wrong in their own sections. One glaring example of this tendency to substitute new names is shown in the case of a stream rising on the Eastern slope of the Judith mountains and flowing east and parallel to the Missouri river through Fergus county and entering the Musselshell river near its mouth.

Quoting from Lewis' Journal of May 20, 1805, he says:

"About five miles above the mouth of (Mussel) shell river a handsome river of about fifty yards in width discharges itself into the Shell river on the Starboard or upper side. This stream we call Sahcagerweah or Bird Woman's river, after our interpreter the Snake Woman."

This creek, fifty miles in length, considered of sufficient importance to be described as a river by Lewis many years ago was changed to "Crooked Creek" and has so been marked on the maps of Montana for many years and it will take the action of a Legislative Assembly to correct the inexcusable blunder and to respect the desires of the leaders and members of the Expedition to leave the name of their invaluable guide and interpreter on the geography of the Province and of the States which should be carved from it. Names of other streams to honor other members of the party have been changed and should be restored.

The accessions to the museum during the past biennial period have not been numerous but those received have been of much interest.

The accessions to the Library Department have been more extensive although consisting mostly of public documents, National and State, which in many instances are interesting and when they fall into the right hands are useful and valuable and as one of the few depositories in the State, the Library is favored.

The accessions may be classified as follows:

Periodicals including newspapers.....	292
Philosophy	6
Religion	5
Sociology	41
Useful Arts.....	38
Fine Arts.....	1
Fiction	23
Poetry	1
Biography	5
History and Travel.....	115
State Documents.....	410
Government Publications.....	251
Government records from Fort Assiniboine	135

Lack of funds has prevented the Library from securing many volumes in the clearing houses of valuable libraries which pertain in many cases primarily and in very many cases secondarily to the early history of this region.

Appended to this report is an account of the Receipts and Expenditures of the Historical and Miscellaneous Department of the State Library for the period Dec. 1, 1920 to Nov. 30, 1922.

J. U. SANDERS,

Librarian.

RECEIPTS

1920

Dec. 1	Balance of Appropriation, H. B. 438. March 17, 1919 for period Mar. 1, 1920 to Feb. 28, 1921.....	\$ 2,021.59
Dec. 1	Balance, Proceeds sales of Contributions.....	68.64

1921

Mar. 1	Appropriation for salaries and expenses of Historical and Miscellaneous Library for period, March 1, 1921-June 30, 1921	600.00
July 1	Appropriation for salaries and expenses of Historical and Miscellaneous Library for period July 1, 1921-June 30, 1922, by Act of March 11, 1921.....	5,037.00
July 8	Refund on Bronze Tablet marking Discovery of Gold in Last Chance Gulch.....	9.28

1922

July 1	Appropriation for salaries and expenses of Historical and Miscellaneous Library for period July 1, 1922-June 30, 1923, Act of March 11, 1921.....	6,228.00
Nov. 30	Proceeds of sales of Contributions, Dec. 1, 1920-Nov. 30, 1922.....	130.45
	Total	\$14,094.96

EXPENDITURES

1921

Feb. 28	Salaries, Librarian and Assistants, 3 months at \$375.00	\$1,125.00
Feb. 28	Books and Periodicals.....	\$ 45.41
	Newspapers and binding.....	183.30
	Furniture and supplies.....	112.00
	Postage, express, freight.....	5.12
		345.83
Feb. 28	Balance of Appropriation Reverted to State Treasury	550.76
June 30	Salaries of Librarian and Assistants, 1 month.....	375.00
	Books	225.00

1922

June 30	Salaries of Librarian and Assistants, July 1, 1921 to June 30, 1922, 12 months at \$275.00 per month	3,300.00
	Books and Periodicals.....	434.75
	Newspapers and binding.....	943.51
	Furniture and Supplies.....	56.60
	Postage, Express, Freight.....	60.91
		1,495.77
Nov. 30	Salaries of Librarian and Assistants, July.....	275.00
	August-Nov. \$325 per month.....	1,300.00
		1,575.00
	Books and Periodicals.....	153.89
	Newspapers and binding.....	90.69
	Furniture and supplies.....	194.37
	Postage, express and freight.....	21.53
	Traveling expenses.....	72.75
		533.23
	Total	\$9,525.59

HISTORICAL LIBRARY REPORT

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Balance on hand, Dec. 1, 1922.....		\$4,569.37
Appropriated for binding newspapers.....	\$ 500.00	
Salaries of Librarian and Assistant, Dec. 1922-June 1923....	2,275.00	2,775.00
Balance for current expenses to end of fiscal year, June 30, 1923.....		\$1,794.37

State of Montana)
 County of Lewis and Clark) SS

73496

J. U. Sanders, being first duly sworn, deposes and says that he is the person making the within account and that the said account is correct.

J. U. SANDERS,

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 9th day of December, 1922.

(Signed) CLIFFORD L. WALKER,

(SEAL) Notary Public for the State of Montana. Residing at Helena, Montana. My Commission expires May 5, 1923.

DISCARDED

JUN 24 1969

LIBRARY
UNIVERSITY of MONTANA

